

WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

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AT DEADLINE

EPA proposes rules for diesel emissions

The U.S. EPA is proposing new clean air standards to reduce emissions from about 1 million existing stationary diesel engines.

The more stringent standards would take effect beginning in 2013, reducing emissions of hazardous volatile organic com-

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Waste Services Inc. is instituting a surcharge to reclaim the cost associated with recycling. Page 4

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Clean Harbors Inc. has become a billion-dollar company based on last year's revenue. Page 6

AIR/WATER



Members of a central New Hampshire initiative organize "energy raisers" that help neighbors install solar hot water systems. Page 30

Global Wind Systems CEO Chris Long said his company has committed to build 492 of its 1.5-megawatt wind turbines. Page 13



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Obama lays out energy plan



CALLING FOR A CO-OP CAP: President Barack Obama addresses Congress in the U.S. Capitol's House chamber Feb. 24 as Vice President Joe Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi applaud him.

Proposal includes \$15 billion annually to develop wind, solar, biofuel, clean coal

By Bruce Geiselman

President Barack Obama used a nationally televised address before Congress to outline his plans for turning around the economy, including committing \$15 billion per year to developing green energy.

The federal government would use the money to promote development of wind, solar, biofuel and clean coal tech-

nologies, the president said. That in turn would create jobs, he said.

Obama also called for Congress to send him a bill establishing a cap on carbon dioxide emissions, saying it would benefit the economy — a position embraced by environmentalists but rejected by most conservatives and Republicans.

The EPA agrees to reconsider a Bush administration policy that it should not regulate CO₂ emissions from power plants. Page 4

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Budget booster

President's plan swells EPA budget, re-ups Superfund

By Bruce Geiselman

President Barack Obama unveiled a proposed \$3.5 trillion budget for fiscal year 2010 that would boost funding for the Environmental Protection Agency by more than 34%, while also calling for reinstating the Superfund tax.

The budget also calls for additional Energy Department funding for renewable energy projects and appears to slash funding for developing the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository outside Las Vegas. Senate leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said President Obama has promised to develop other means of handling nuclear waste that won't involve shipping it to Reid's

See Budget, Page 28



FAT TUESDAY, BUSY WEDNESDAY: Officials of SDT Waste, the company in charge of keeping New Orleans' French Quarter clean throughout the year, say this year's Mardi Gras cleanup was one of its biggest ever. See story, Page 3.

Police raid six Indianapolis scrap yards

By Joe Truini

Indiana prosecutors are investigating whether OmniSource Corp. employees accepted stolen goods at several of the company's scrap yards.

Police showed up at six of the company's Indianapolis locations and issued search warrants on Feb. 23, said Ben Eisbart, vice president of Fort Wayne, Ind.-based Steel Dynamics Inc., OmniSource's parent company.

"Obviously it caught us by surprise," he said. "The basic thesis is they were investigating scrap theft and thought that there might be some of our employees that were buying stolen material." No one has been charged and

no arrests have been made. The Marion County, Ind., Prosecutor's Office has commenced a grand jury investigation into the matter. "We have collected voluminous

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MUNICIPAL RECYCLING SURVEY



San Francisco boasts a 70% recycling rate for 2008. Our 10th annual survey begins on Page 14.



The Fuel Efficiency Advisor gives drivers accurate, real-time data about speed and fuel efficiency. Page 23



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Republic busy with energy projects

By Jim Johnson

PHOENIX, ARIZ. — This is going to be a busy year for Bill Held.

As senior director of renewable energy for Republic Services Inc., Held said some 20 separate landfill gas-to-energy projects are under construction at the nation's second largest solid waste management company.

To put that into perspective, Republic Services, prior to its merger with Allied Waste Industries Inc. late last year, had a total of eight operational landfill gas projects and three more in construction.

"The new company, I think, we're up to 65 operational projects. We have about 20 in construction," Held said. "And our universe of opportunities, meaning landfills where we can put an energy project, probably tripled."

"It's very important for our company to be sustainable, to have a sustainable mission," Held said during a recent interview in his Phoenix office. "Landfill gas is a key component to that."

Landfill gas-to-energy projects are driven by economics and opportunity. And more and more outside companies are looking to

use trash gas as a renewable energy source as they attempt to green their operations.

A big part of Held's job is to find end users for the electricity or gas created by landfill energy projects. And that, he said, is not very difficult these days.

"Energy companies and industries want to be able to say they're green. And landfill gas gives them a good chance to do that. Whether it's the electricity produced from landfill gas or they're using the landfill gas instead of natural gas," Held said.

While there is an economic benefit to landfill gas projects, Held also pointed to environmental reasons for pursuing projects.

"It's very important for our company to be green, to be sustainable, to have a sustainability mission and a program," he said. "Landfill gas is a key component of that. In addition to our truck fleet and their emissions and the landfill equipment and their emissions, landfill emissions are our biggest source of emissions. Anything we can do to control and reduce those emissions helps our carbon footprint."

Republic Services spokesman

Will Flower said developing landfill gas projects fits into the company's overall mission.

"When we were redoing our mission statement for the combined company — and pretty much every mission statement talks about the employees, the shareholders and the customers — the leaders of the company ... especially said they wanted to make sure we talked about the environment as part of our mission," Flower said.

"Our mission is essentially to protect the environment. The projects that Bill is working on are directly in line with that mission statement. At Republic, I can tell you that being green is important, but so is operating in the black. That's the challenge that Bill has. How do you do these projects and shape them in a way which enhances the environment and also enhances the bottom line? It can be done," Flower said.

Allied Waste, in the 18 months prior to the merger, made a strong push to develop landfill gas-to-energy projects. After the flurry of activity surrounding those deals dies down, Held expects to settle into a pace of developing three to



BUSY YEAR: Bill Held, senior director of renewable energy for Republic Services Inc., said some 20 separate landfill gas-to-energy projects are under construction at the nation's second largest solid waste management company.

five new projects each year.

"Right now we're in a fast mode," Flower said.

"The future, I think, it's going to continue on a steady pace of developing landfills," Held said. "The real future is for us to strate-

gically align with correct end users and buyers of the power, buyers of the gas." ■

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French Quarter cleanup

By Jim Johnson

When all the beads have been tossed and the drinks have been tossed back, it is Sidney Torres IV's job to make sure the French Quarter is clean.

And the owner of SDT Waste and Debris LLC is fanatical about his job.

But his work this year was like no other for the company, which has been charged with keeping the famous New Orleans area clean for the past few years.

"This year, it was unbelievable to see the crowd. I knew when I started seeing that I was like we need to double up here. I went out and got 25 extra pieces of equipment," he said.

SDT Waste is in charge of keeping the French Quarter clean throughout the year, but certainly Mardi Gras is the company's busiest time. And this year featured the biggest Mardi Gras crowds in the three years that SDT has handled the cleanup work.

So when midnight struck on Fat Tuesday, it was all over as Mardi Gras officially shut down for yet another year.

But not for SDT Waste employees, who still had another night of hard work ahead.

"It was really fun last night closing it down because the crowd, it was unbelievable to see the crowd watching, taking pictures. It was neat. And the amount of the trash we had to clean up this morning was unbelievable, the beads and the cups and the bottles and the trash, it was just everywhere," Torres said on Ash Wednesday last week.

But by 8 a.m. that day, the work had been finished.



Torres

Torres, who is part of a prominent New Orleans family, is not your typical garbage man. He was a developer before Hurricane Katrina struck and decided to go into the business for himself after getting what he called a "ridiculous price" for roll-off container service while building a FEMA camp.

From one truck and \$700 of revenue during his first month in business, SDT Waste now has 75 trucks and does \$8.5 million in monthly revenue.

Instead of measuring success by the amount of trash collected, Torres views success by how quickly the cleanup job is completed.

"We want to get out there and have it clean so when people step out of their hotel room the next morning to go home and get on a plane, their last image of the city is that sweet lemon smell and the cleanliness of the street," he said.

That "sweet lemon smell" is part of a multi-step approach used to keep the streets fresh, he explained. Skid-steers, front-end loaders, street sweepers, roll-off trucks and high-pressure washers all work together to help clear the debris. Employees then follow on foot to handle any trash the machinery did not collect.

The lemon scent is added to water trucks that rinse down the streets at the end of the process to wash away what Torres calls funky odors and party gravy.

SDT Waste workers typically use the equipment to push the party debris down the streets into big piles. The waste is then loaded into 30-yard containers for trips to the nearby Riverbush landfill. By the end of a block, a trash pile can be 8 feet tall by 12 to 15 feet wide, Torres said.

SDT had about 150 employees handling cleanup duties last week, including about 30 extra brought in for the added Mardi Gras work. ■

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Maryland commissioners considering WTE project

By Joe Truini

Maryland county commissioners still are considering whether to move forward with a proposed Frederick County waste-to-energy project, listening to residents' concerns during marathon public hearing sessions.

"We had two public hearings that lasted seven hours each," said Robin B. Davidov, executive director of the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority. "I've never seen anything more public."

Following one of the latest meetings, a local newspaper reported a Wheelabrator Inc. official, Mark Lyons, implied the project was a done deal and opponents' comments may have been for naught. Jan Gardner, president of the Frederick County Board of Commissioners, publicly responded, reminding the company, as well as residents, that the process is still ongoing, prompting a Feb. 20 letter from Lyons clarifying the company's position, calling the statement attributed to him "grossly inaccurate."

"I kind of took them to task for making that statement to the paper," Gardner said. "We have not voted as to whether to proceed with waste-to-energy at this point, and we have not awarded a contract to Wheelabrator or signed anything."

The counties put out a request for proposals in conjunction with the NMDWA, she said. Two bidders responded, Wheelabrator and Fairfield, N.J.-based Covanta Holdings Corp., and went through a long review process. In the end, Wheelabrator was chosen as the preferred vendor should the counties decide to go forward with the project.

"We negotiated a draft contract with them, and that draft contract was presented to Frederick County and Carroll County for their consideration," Davidov said. "They wanted us to select the best offer and present them with one contract."

The counties are in the process of determining whether to approve that draft contract. If they do, the permitting and financing process would begin, which could take two years, she said.

"They are the recommended vendor by our staff," Gardner said. "Generally when we have bid awards, most of the time, the commissions will award a bid to that vendor because that bid process is prescribed."

Currently, both counties ship their trash to landfills in Virginia and Pennsylvania, and they have been looking for a better way to manage their waste.

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